



## Indian Affairs - Office of Public Affairs

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**For Immediate Release:** January 11, 2002

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(WASHINGTON, D.C.) â Interior Assistant Secretary â Indian Affairs Neal A. McCaleb and Deputy Assistant Secretary Wayne Smith will meet with tribal leaders on Thursday, January 17, 2002 in San Diego, Calif., at the fifth in a series of consultation meetings on the Departmentâs plan to improve the management of Indian trust assets. The meeting will be held at the Hanalei Red Lion Hotel (2270 Hotel Circle North) starting at 9:00 a.m. (PST).

On November 15, 2001, the Department announced plans to transfer and consolidate Indian trust asset management functions currently administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other Interior agencies within a new Bureau of Indian Trust Assets Management. The Department also announced the establishment of an Assistant Secretary for Indian Trust Assets Management to oversee BITAM and a new Office of Indian Trust Transition to implement the transfer and consolidation plans.

Consultation meetings have already taken place in Albuquerque, N.M.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Oklahoma City, Okla., and Rapid City, S.D. Additional meetings will be held in Anchorage, Alaska, on January 23 and in Washington, D.C (Arlington, Va.) on February 1. A notice with meeting dates and locations was published in the December 11 *Federal Register*.

**WHO:** Interior Assistant Secretary â Indian Affairs Neal A. McCaleb and Deputy Assistant Secretary â Indian Affairs Wayne Smith.

**WHEN:** 9:00 a.m. (PST), Thursday, January 17, 2002.

**WHAT:** Interior Department tribal consultation meeting on improving the management of Indian trust assets.

**WHERE:** Hanalei Red Lion Hotel, 2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, Calif

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